



Emission Check

You're on the Road to Cleaner Air.

Your vehicle failed its emission test. Now what?

What do you do after your vehicle fails its test?

Have your vehicle repaired and re-tested.

- Ecology suggests taking your vehicle to an Authorized Emission Specialist at one of the repair shops on the list given to you with this document. Lists of Authorized Emission Specialists are also available on Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/aes-page.html>.
- Anyone can repair your vehicle. However, only diagnosis and/or repairs performed by an Authorized Emission Specialist may qualify for a waiver (see "What is a waiver?" below).
- Your \$15 Emission Check fee includes one free re-test. After the free re-test, each additional test costs \$15.

What is a waiver?

A waiver allows you to register your vehicle this year even if it doesn't pass its final test.

How do you qualify for a waiver?

When your vehicle fails its re-test, you can get a waiver if **all** of the following things have occurred:

- You have spent at least \$150 on diagnosis and/or appropriate emissions repairs by an Authorized Emission Specialist.
- You have given the test station manager your original repair receipts signed by the Authorized Emission Specialist. (The receipts must identify your vehicle by its license number and vehicle identification number.)
- Your vehicle passed a visual inspection of its emission control equipment.

Once your vehicle has either passed a re-test or received a waiver, you may re-license it.

Tips for re-testing

It is important to have your vehicle's engine and emission control equipment at normal operating temperature during the emission test. Some ways to help ensure this are:

- **Try to test when you will not have to wait in a long line.** The lines are usually shorter in the middle of the month and in the afternoon. Avoid going for a test on Mondays and Saturdays if you can. You can view the waiting at the test stations at Ecology's Emission Check Program web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/automotive_pages.htm
- Before going to the test station, drive your vehicle on the freeway for 10 to 15 minutes. This helps bring it to its normal operating temperature.
- When you arrive at the test station, turn off all accessories (air conditioner, lights, wipers, heater, radio, etc.).
- While in line, leave your vehicle's engine running unless you are asked to turn it off.

What if your vehicle can't have a re-test because it is "not ready" for testing?

Sometimes vehicles with On-Board Diagnostics computer systems, or OBD, are not ready for testing after repairs. This is usually a temporary situation that is resolved by additional driving. If your vehicle is unable to be retested after you've had it repaired, you can get a waiver as long as you meet all the waiver requirements described above.

For more information about OBD systems, a "Frequently Asked Questions About OBD" sheet is available at test stations, or on Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0502030.pdf>.

Questions?

If you have questions about your vehicle's emission test, please see the manager of the test station.

If you need more help, please call the Department of Ecology at:

King/Snohomish County: 1-800-272-3780 between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays

Clark/Pierce County: 1-800-453-4951

Spokane County: (509) 329-3491

You can find more information on Ecology's Emission Check Program web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/automotive_pages.htm

If you need this publication in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6800. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.